

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CTME-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 CG-00 HA-05 FMC-01

DOT-00 L-03 /047 W

-----071832 010837Z /17

R 311016Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2482

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 9602

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, TH

SUBJ: MEBA COMPLAINT ABOUT THAI CUSTOMS

REF: A) STATE 068083, B) HONG KONG 3839

1. PRESENT SITUATION REGARDING CUSTOMS HARRASSMENT OF SEALAND VESSELS SUBSTANTIALLY AS THAT DESCRIBED BY HONG KONG. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION THAT THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, GIVEN OPPORTUNITY ABOARD SHIP, WILL STEAL OR CONFISCATE WHATEVER POSSIBLE, PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAS BEEN QUIET GIVEN THE EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO PUT CONSULAR OFFICERS ABOARD SHIP UPON REQUEST AT ANYTIME. (THE SEALAND VESSELS THAT HAVE BEEN THE TARGET OF THE ATTENTIONS OF THE CUSTOMS INSPECTORS ARRIVE ON WEEK ENDS USUALLY DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS).

2. GIVEN THE COMPLAINT, AMBASSADOR MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO UNDER-SECRETARY ARUN PANUPONG, DRAWING UPON SUBSTANCE OF THE MEBA COMPLAINT AS OUTLINED IN STATE 068083. AMBASSADOR LEFT AN AIDE MEMOIRE.

3. COMPLAINT ACTUALLY PLACES SEALAND IN DELICATE POSITION IF THE UNION INSISTS ON THE SHIP BEING CLEARED OF INSPECTORS BEFORE
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WORK BEGINS. SEALAND AGENT HERE INDICATES THE SHIP IS LIABLE FOR INSPECTION AT ANY TIME WHILE IN PORT EVEN THOUGH INSPECTORS NORMALLY BOARD WHEN IT TIES UP. IF THE INSPECTORS DECIDE TO STICK TO THE LETTER OF THEIR REGULATIONS, THE SHIP CAN BE PENALIZED FOR ANY NUMBER OF MINOR INFRACTIONS, IMMOBILIZING THE SHIP AND ADDING SUBSTANTIAL OPERATIONAL COSTS. THE LAST SUCH INSTANCE OCCURRED A WEEK AGO WHEN THE NEWLY ASSIGNED MASTER OF THE SS

PONCE NEGLECTED TO DECLARE ARTICLES IN THE SHIP'S SLOP CHEST AND
THE SKIPPER WAS FINED 25 CARTONS OF CIGARETTES OVER AND ABOVE
THE REGULAR TRIBUTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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